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John L. Wailes receives U. S. Public Health Service grant

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dr. John L. Wailes, Montana State University pharmacy professor, has received a one-year grant of $3,918 from the U. S. Public Health Service for research on preservatives and mold respiration, Pharmacy Dean R. L. Van Horne announced.

Food products can be preserved by heat sterilization, freezing and other conventional methods which can not be used to preserve most pharmaceutical products because they would destroy the activity of the drug, Dr. Wailes points out. Therefore, an additional chemical is added for the sole purpose of protecting the product from the deleterious effects of molds, yeasts, and bacteria.

The ultimate goal of Dr. Wailes' research is to perfect a Warburg manometric method for the evaluation and screening of chemical compounds that are now used, or may be used in the future, for preservation of pharmaceuticals and possibly some food products. This method is based on the oxygen consumption of yeasts and molds, he explained.

He notes that the methods now used in evaluating compounds for preservative activity are time consuming and laborious, and the results are often questionable. The manometric method on which he is working shows promise of overcoming the objectionable factors inherent in the older methods of preservative evaluation.

Dr. Wailes' research in this field has been receiving USPHS support since 1959.

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